

10/525904

Rec'd PCT/PTO 25 FEB 2005  
PATENT  
450100-05112

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Norio SUGAWARA et al.  
International Application No.: PCT/JP04/009456  
International Filing Date: June 28, 2004  
For: EXTERNAL STORAGE APPARATUS

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Sir:

Enclosed are copies of prior art references and publications, which were cited in the International Search Report of International Application No. PCT/JP04/009456, as well as copies of references, which might be deemed relevant to this application. Also enclosed is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and the International Search Report.

In the event the above-identified patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is an international application that entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. 371 after June

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#### **REMARKS**

Entry of this Information Disclosure Statement and an early examination on the merits are respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

Based on Form PTO-1449 (3/90)  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 450100-05112	SERIAL NO. Filed Concurrently Herewith
	APPLICANT Norio SUGAWARA et al.	
	FILING DATE Filed Concurrently Herewith	GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6, 592, 031	07/15/03	Klatt			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES      NO
	AH	JP 2000-215296	08/04/00	Japan			
	AI	EP 1 006 479	06/07/00	Europe			
	AJ	JP 3060424	06/16/99	Japan			
	AK	JP 11-312225	11/09/99	Japan			
	AL	JP 06-312593	11/08/94	Japan			
	AM	JP 2003-281490	10/03/03	Japan			
	AN						
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OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
	AQ		
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